

Message Text

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ACTION XMB-07

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 ADP-00 AID-20 CIAE-00 COME-00 EB-11

FRB-02 INR-10 NSAE-00 RSC-01 TRSE-00 OPIC-12 CIEP-02

LAB-06 SIL-01 OMB-01 L-03 RSR-01 /088 W
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P 111300 Z MAY 73

FM AMEMBASSY KINSHASA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 3275

C O N F I D E N T I A L KINSHASA 3901

DEPT PASS EXIM BANK

E. O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: ETRD, ETRN, EFIN, US, CG

SUBJ: ZAIRE PURCHASE OF COMMERCIAL AIRCRAFT

REF: KINSHASA 3354, 3356; STATE 88005

1. COMMISSIONER OF STATE FOR TRANSPORT EKETEBI CALLED ME IN TO SAY HE AND GOVERNOR FO NATIONAL BANK SAMBWA HAD BEEN GIVING FURTHER THOUGHT TO AIRCRAFT PURCHASE PROGRAM (REFTELS) . THEY WERE CONCERNED SINCE UNDER TIMETABLE DECIDED BY PRESMOBUTU AND GOZ, THEY MUST TAKE TITLE TO FIRST DC-10 IN ONE MONTH' S TIME. THEREFORE, EKETEBI AND SAMBWA HAD BEGUN TO REALIZED THERE MIGHT NOT BE TIME ENOUGH TO WORK OUT EXIM BANK FINANCING PACKAGE COVERING THE THREE TYPES OF AIRCRAFT WHICH WERE SUBJECT OF MOST RECENT APPLICATION. HAVING IN MIND CLEAR EXPRESSION OF EXIO' S REQUIREMENT FOR STUDIES SHOWING TECHNICAL AND FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS OF INTRODUCTION THREE NEW TYPES OF AIRCRAFT IN AIR ZAIRE INVENTORY IN A SHORT SPACE OF TIME, EKETEBI SAID HE HAD CONCLUDED GOZ SHOULD GO BACK TO ORIGINAL PACKAGE OF THREE BOEING 737 S AND TWO DC-10 S REGARDING WHICH EXIM BANK HAD ALREADY ISSTEE LRELIMINARY LETTERS OF COMMITMENT. IN SO DOING, GOZ COULD ARRANGE JUNE DELIVERY OF FIRST DC-10.

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2. EKETEBI SAID THIS LATEST DECISION LEFT THE PROBLEM OF MEETING PRES MOBUTU' S AND GOZ' S DECISION, ANNOUNCED PUBLICLY THROUGHOUT ZAIRE AND ABROAD, THAT AIR ZAIRE WOULD ALSO HAVE A BOEING 747 IN NOVEMBER 1973. EKETEBI AND SAMBWA THEREFORE DECIDED TO PURSUE ANOTHER COURSE WHICH HAD BEEN SUGGESTED EARLIER: GOZ IN ADDITION TO ABOVE PURCHASES WOULD WET- LEASE ONE BOEING 747 WITH AN OPTION TO PURCHASE. EKETEBI SAID HE REASONED ZAIRE WOULD HAVE HAD TO HIRE FLIGHT AND MAINTENANCE CREWS AND ARRANGE FOR SERVICING OF THE 747 IN ANY CASE AND WET- LEASE WITH OPTION TO PURCHASE WOULD BOTH MEET PUBLIC COMMITMENT TO HAVE 747 IN SERVICE BY NOVEMBER AND WOULD ALSO PROVIDE POSSIBILITY OF DELAYING FINAL DECISION ON PRACTICABILITY OF PURCHASE UNTILL AIR ZAIRE HAD OBTAINED EXPERIENCE WITH THIS PARTICULAR EQUIPMENT.

3. EKETEBI STRESSD THAT THIS DECISION MUST REMAIN CONFIDENTIAL FOR TWO REASONS: (A). HE MUST OBTAIN MOBUTU' S APPROVAL FOR THIS NEW APPROACH WHEN HE SEE THE PRESIDENT IN ITALY THIS WEEKEND ; (B) ASSUMING HE IS SUCCESSFUL, PRES MOBUTU WOULD NOT WANT IT WIDELY KNOWN PUBLICLY THAT THE 747 WAS ACQUIRED ON A LEASE BASIS. FYI ACCORDING EKETEBI, PRES WOULD ALSO INSIST ON LEASING A PLANE WHICH HAD NOT BEEN USED COMMERCIALY. PANAM HAS INFORMED EKETEBI THAT IT HAS SUCH A PLANE IN THIS CONDITION IN MOTHBALLS. END FYI.

4. EKETEBI DEPARTS FOR ITALY MAY 11 TO MEET WITH PRES AND THEN WILL PROCEED TO WASHINGTON ON PANAM TUESDAY, MAY 15. HE WILL BE ACCOMPANIED ON BOTH TRIPS BY WILLIAM WALLACE, NO.2 MAN IN PANAM'S TAP TEAM FOR AIR ZAIRE. EKETEBI REQUEST MEETING MAY 16 WITH ASST SECY NEWSOM AND COHEN OF AF/ C BEFORE HE MEETS WITH EXIM BANK. EKETEBI IS ALSO INVITING BANKERS TRUST TO SEND A REPRESENTATIVE TO MEET WITH HIM IN WASHINGTON MAY 16 OR 17.

5. WALLACE WILL ARRIVE WASHINGTON MAY 13. HE IS REQUESTING REPRESENTATIVE OF MCDONNELL DOUGLAS AND BOEING TO MEET WITH HIM MAY 14 AND 15 IN ORDER TO PREPARE THE ECONOMIC, FINANCIAL AND TECHNICAL STUDIES EXIM BANK REQUIRES.
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6. SEPTEL GIVE TEXT OF TELEGRAM WHICH EKETEBI SENT EXIM BANK MAY 10.

7. RE EXIM MESSAGE STATE 088005 EKETEBI IN HIS MAY 10 CONVERSATION WITH ME INTIMATED HE THOUGHT THAT THIS WOULD BE BANK' S POSITION. HE ASSURED ME THAT THE FIVE AIRCRAFT CITED

IN HIS MAY 10 TELEGRAM ARE THE ONLY PURCHASES CURRENTLY
BEING CONTEMPLATED BY GOZ AND AIR ZAIRE.
VANCE

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NMAFVVZCZ

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